

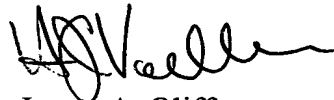
REMARKS

This Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment changes the claim identifiers in claims 1, 2 and 4, of the October 17, 2003 Amendment, from "Amended" to "Currently Amended." Accordingly, the claim identifiers of claims 1-15 correctly indicate their current status. The October 17, 2003 Amendment submitted in response to the July 17, 2003 Office Action is herein incorporated by reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HJV/tea

Date: November 5, 2003

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